



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of Feb 20, 2006

BANGLADESH

World's Largest Measles Vaccination in Bangladesh

On Saturday (February 25), the Bangladeshi government will launch its largest ever measles vaccination for around 34 million children, in an effort supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other international partners. Measles is the fifth leading cause of death among children under five years of age in Bangladesh.

According to UNICEF's figure every year, an estimated 20,000 children die from measles in Bangladesh. This annual death toll occurs despite that fact that annually, almost 70 per cent of children under the age of 1 year are reached through routine vaccination. According to UNICEF, Saturday's campaign will be the biggest measles vaccination campaign in the world, involving approximately 50,000 skilled vaccinators and 750,000 volunteers, covering 62 districts and five city corporations.

Source:

· Bangladesh and UNICEF gear up for world's largest campaign against measles, Feb 20, 2006,
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=17552&Cr=bangladesh&Cr1=#>

CAMBODIA

Cambodia reports first case of deadly H5N1 subtype in more than a year

On Friday (February 24) Yim Vanthon, a top official at Cambodia's Agriculture Ministry, reported that the deadly H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus was found in ducks on a family farm in Kampong Seim district of the eastern province of Kompong Cham. This outbreak of the H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus is the first to be recorded in Cambodia since March 2005. As a preventive measure, 200 ducks were culled at the farm. In 2005, four human cases of the H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus were recorded in Cambodia. All of these cases resulted in death.

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Source:

- Cambodia reports bird flu outbreak, Feb 24, 2006, http://abcasiapacific.com/news/stories/asiapacific_stories_1578057.htm
- Bird flu returns to Cambodia, official says, Feb 24, 2006, <http://asia.news.yahoo.com/060224/3/2qdoe.html>

INDIA**Suspected Chikungunya outbreak in Andhra Pradesh state in southern India**

Preliminary investigations by a team of scientists from the National Institute of Virology (NIV), found that a fever outbreak across at least five districts in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh in January may have been caused by the chikungunya virus, according to a report posted on Friday (February 17) on indiaexpress.com. The NIV team visited the affected areas, collected samples and will issue a final conclusive report to Union Ministry of Health. The chikungunya virus is transmitted by the mosquitoes that carry the virus. Symptoms of chikungunya include the sudden onset of chills and fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, joint pain, and rash. Chikungunya is usually not life-threatening.

Source:

- Chikungunya -India (Andhra Pradesh): Suspected, Feb 20, 2006, <http://www.promedmail.org>

First case of H5N1 subtype of bird flu found in India's western Maharashtra state

On Saturday (February 19), India confirmed its first outbreak of the H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus in the town of Navapur in Nandurbar district in western Maharashtra state. Hundreds of thousands of birds have been culled since Sunday (February 19) and on Friday (February 24), workers began to disinfect the bird flu-affected areas. On Wednesday (February 22), a series of news stories were posted suggesting that two human cases of the H5N1 subtype had been detected in the affected areas. However, on Thursday (February 23) the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India informed the World Health Organization (WHO) that tests have not revealed any human cases of H5N1 infection to date. Testing of suspicious cases are being conducted at the National Institute of Virology in Pune and the National Institute of Communicable Diseases in Delhi. As of the most recent WHO report posted on Monday (February 20), the deadly H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus has infected 170 humans, of which 92 have died, across Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iraq, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam, since its resurgence in 2003.

Source:

- Avian influenza – situation in India – update, Feb 23, 2006, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2006_02_23/en/print.html
- India bird flu town sealed for week, Feb 23, 2006, http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060223/wl_sthasia_afp/healthfluindia&printer=1;_ylt=AhMXSwCvt3LK8Fw_HxWiltDuOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTA3MXN1bHE0BHNIYwN0bWE-
- India bird flu tests 'all clear', Feb 24, 2006, http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/4748808.stm

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INDONESIA

Indonesia prepares for fourth polio immunization round

Indonesian health officials began preparations for a fourth nationwide round of polio immunizations to start next week. According to Agence France-Presse (AFP) Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari said that more than 250,000 immunization posts will be set up across the sprawling archipelago, in an effort to access the country's more than 23 million children. Fadilah said that a fifth round will be held in April. Since it resurfaced in March 2005, polio has been confirmed in 304 children. The most recent infections were reported on January 28. The resurgence of polio in March 2005 came ten years after Indonesia had been declared polio-free. According to AFP, in the three previous rounds, government monitoring showed about 95 percent of children were reached in August, 97.5 percent in September and 98.1 percent in November. Multiple immunizations reportedly increase children's resistance to polio. On January 30, Indonesia held another nationwide immunization drive targeting 24 million children under the age of five. Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus that can cause irreversible paralysis of children within hours of infections. Polio is endemic in four countries, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that polio has been eradicated in both Egypt and Niger.

Source:

· Indonesia prepares for fourth polio immunization round, Feb 24, 2006, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailatestnews.asp?fileid=20060224184256&irec=0>

19th human bird flu death confirmed; Cullings planned for West Java and Central Java

On Monday (February 20), Indonesia reported its 19th World Health Organization (WHO)-confirmed human death from the deadly H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus. Meanwhile, this week officials have been planning emergency measures to deal with the concentration of the deadly H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus in densely populated West and Central Java. On Friday (February 24), Fatimah Resmiati of the West Java health office told The Jakarta Post, "Almost no region (in West Java) is free from bird flu infection." Meanwhile, Governors in Central Java announced their plans to conduct mass and selective culling in various areas as preventive measures against further spread.

Source:

· Spread of avian flu jumps in West and Central Java, Feb 18, 2006, http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews_Detail.asp?ID=3708

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MALAYSIA

Bird flu outbreak on chicken farm in Malaysia

On Monday (February 20), Malaysian Agricultural Minister Muhyiddin Yassin reported that laboratory tests confirmed that some 40 chickens on a farm in the central state of Selangor died of the deadly H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus. According to Muhyiddin, the outbreak is an isolated case, and all 110 chickens in the area were culled. This is Malaysia's first outbreak of the H5N1 subtype of the virus since the country's last outbreak was reported in northern Kelantan state in late 2004. On Tuesday (February 21), health officials were sent to the area to track any possible human infections. On Wednesday (February 22) seven people were hospitalized and samples were sent to a laboratory to determine whether they were infected with the bird flu virus.

Source:

· Malaysia confirms new bird flu outbreak, Feb 21, 2006, <http://www.todayonline.com/articles/102146print.asp>

SOUTH KOREA

South Korea reports first human cases of the H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus; humans not ill

On Friday (February 24) Oh Dae Kyu, South Korea's Director of the Health Ministry's Center for Disease Control and Prevention said that four poultry workers were infected with the H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus between late 2003 and early 2004. These cases mark the first known human cases of the H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus in South Korea. According to Oh, the four people had contracted the bird flu virus during the culling of birds, but never showed symptoms of the disease. Oh reported that, at the time of the outbreaks, about 1,900 workers involved in the culling had been given the anti-flu medicine Tamiflu as a precaution. Blood samples from 318 workers involved in the culling of some 5 million birds were tested for the bird flu virus. Of these, 11 suspicious cases were sent to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for further testing in November 2005. According to Oh, the test results of the tests came back on Thursday (February 24), showing that four of the humans tested positive for the deadly H5N1 subtype of the virus. Despite the laboratory findings, none of the human cases have manifested symptoms of the deadly H5N1 subtype of the virus. In March 2005, North Korea reported its first bird flu outbreak and culled about 210,000 chickens and other poultry.

Source:

· S. Korea confirms first cases of bird flu infection, Feb 24, 2006, <http://home.kyodo.co.jp/modules/fstStory/index.php?storyid=232125>
· S. Koreans not ill, but had bird flu, Feb 24, 2006, http://www.iht.com/bin/print_ipub.php?file=/articles/2006/02/24/news/flu.php

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Other World News

CROATIA (HRVATSKA)

Second bird flu outbreak in Croatia

On Tuesday (February 21), Croatia reported a new case of H5N1 in a wild swan found dead last week on the island of Ciovo, across from the southern city of Split. This case marks the country's second outbreak of the deadly H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus. The first outbreak was recorded in about a dozen migratory birds in October 2005 in central Croatia, some 100 miles away from the most recent outbreak. Croatia's Veterinary Institute carried out the tests. Meanwhile, the Agriculture Ministry said several other dead birds found in the area were also being tested for the H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus.

Source:

· Croatia confirms second outbreak of bird flu, Feb 21, 2006, <http://www.irishexaminer.com/breaking/story.asp?i=200307440&p=zx3x8z55&n=200308326#>

FRANCE

Suspected bird flu outbreak on French Turkey Farm

On Thursday (February 23), the French Ministry of Agriculture reported a second case of the H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus in a wild duck found dead in the village of Bouvent in the Ain region of southeast France. Meanwhile, a suspected outbreak of H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus has been detected in a turkey farm near the village of Joyeux, where the first wild bird with the flu virus was found more than a week ago in Ain. All of the 11,000 turkeys on the farm are to be culled. Following the confirmation of its first outbreak last week, the French government ordered poultry farmers to move their birds indoors and announced plans to vaccinate about 900,000 geese and ducks.

Source:

· Suspected outbreak of bird flu on French turkey farm, Feb 24, 2006, http://www.irishexaminer.com/pport/web/world/Full_Story/did-sqEOKJc-7XYnYsg0aewFBADppk.asp
· Second bird flu case in France, Feb 23, 2006, <http://www.news.come.au/story/print/0.10119.18246420.00.html>

GEORGIA

First case of H5N1 subtype of bird flu reported in Georgia

On Friday (February 24) Georgia's Prime Minister Zurab Nogaideli reported that the first case of H5N1 bird flu virus has been detected in the village of Adliya, in the Black Sea coastal region of Adjara in the southern Caucasus republic of Georgia. According to Nogaideli, dead swans were tested in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi on Thursday, and "the presence of the H5N1 virus was confirmed by a laboratory." The discovery of the H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus in Georgia follows outbreaks in neighboring Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey.

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Source:

· First case of H5N1 bird flu found in Georgia, Feb 24, 2006, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-02/24/content_4223774.htm

NIGERIA**Bird flu extends to farms in states near original outbreak in Nigeria**

In Nigeria, the outbreak of H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus in poultry confirmed on February 8 at a commercial farm in the northern state of Kaduna, has spread to commercial farms in several other contiguous states. According to Nigerian officials, outbreaks of the bird flu virus have been recorded at commercial farms in the states of Kano, Plateau, Katsina, and Bauchi, and in the Abuja area. Outbreaks have also been detected at more farms in Kaduna. In addition, more outbreaks have been recorded in Kaduna state and suspected outbreaks in additional states are under investigation. To date no human infections have been detected. However, four suspected human cases have been tested for the bird flu virus and samples of these cases are being sent to a World Health Organization (WHO)-collaborating laboratory in Britain. Nigeria has an estimated 140 million poultry, most in the southwestern part of the country. Nearly 60 percent of this population is small backyard flocks. The large-scale commercial farming of poultry primarily occurs in the northern states, where outbreaks have been confirmed.

Source:

· Avian influenza - situation in Nigeria - update, Feb 22, 2006, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2006_02_22/en/index.html

REUNION**WHO Team to Investigate Chikungunya Outbreak off Southeast African Continent**

On Wednesday (February 22), the World Health Organisation (WHO) said it was sending experts to visit the affected areas of the ongoing chikungunya outbreak and assess efforts to control the disease that has infected thousands in the Indian Ocean islands of Reunion, Mauritius, and the Seychelles. On Friday (February 17), the French National Health Agency (INVS) reported that at least 52 people have died on Reunion Island in recent months due to the ongoing chikungunya outbreak. On Reunion Island alone, some 110,000 people have been affected by chikungunya since the outbreak began in March 2005. Earlier this month, the Seychelles reported more than 1,000 cases of chikungunya. Mauritius has reported 341 people infected, though the latest figure are expected today (Friday, February 24). Despite previous news reports, there have been no confirmed cases of chikungunya in Madagascar or Comoros. The wet conditions created by the rainy season provide ideal breeding grounds for the mosquitoes that transmit chikungunya virus. Symptoms of chikungunya include the sudden onset of chills and fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, joint pain, and rash. Chikungunya is usually not life-threatening.

Source:

· WHO investigates outbreak of rare disease in Africa, Feb 23, 2006,

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http://www.nbr.co.nz/home/column_article.asp?id=14452&cid=5&cname=Asia

· WHO to fight fever outbreak in Indian Ocean, Feb 22, 2006, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L22736046.htm>

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